

6/26/14

Main Message: Results of EPA's surface gamma screening assessment suggest BMAC remains suitable for public use.

1. This preliminary surface gamma screening report is the first of two parts of EPA's BMAC radiation assessment.
2. This preliminary report presents surface gamma screening data collected in mid-May at BMAC and two comparable nearby parks.
3. A final report including the independent laboratory analytical results from testing of more than 100 soil samples – including samples taken from same locations that a community group identified – is expected by the end of July. The final report will include levels of radioactive elements, including thorium, radium, and uranium.
4. The preliminary surface gamma screening report suggests BMAC remains suitable for public use.
5. The field screening included more than 58,000 separate survey points across approximately 45 miles of transecting lines across the BMAC facility. : ALL of these readings were below EPA's guideline used determine whether a release has occurred which would warrant further investigation or action. These results do not indicate any areas of unusual or elevated gamma activity, including the areas previously sampled by a community group in April.
6. The surface gamma screening survey was performed by trained EPA professionals using properly calibrated equipment, and following approved Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedures, which compared BMAC to two comparable nearby public parks for reference radiation levels.
7. The screening equipment used by EPA was so sensitive that it detects slight variations in gamma activity given off by different soil types. The variations detected align with areas that we now know BMAC brought in various types of fill material and amendments. These different gamma readings from different soil types ARE NOT statistically significant differences and do not indicate areas of concern. (Figure 4 on PGS shows those different soil types as blue dots, which correspond to the jogging track and certain northern ballfields.

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